VOLUME XIX APRIL 15, 1957 NUMBER 8

CONSERVATION--LATE NEWS

San Jacinto will be one of our trouble spots for some time to come. The act to repeal the Winter Park Authority was killed in committee 9--12 in spite of a strong presentation by the Sierra Club and other groups. The vote was so close that we can't help wondering if perhaps a little more work, a few more letters or talks to a few more people might have brought us the two votes we needed to free the mountainfrom the threat of the tramway. Pressure from the proponents is rising again. The Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association are urging it and we know that the slightest recession would bring in the steel companies to help boost the tramway. However, there must be another application to the State Park Commission for a new permit, and we also hear that some legislators want a more thorough investigation of the economic aspects of the venture. In that connection we might note that the engineering firm which prepared the forecast of a profitable tramway was also the one to make the much too optimistic forecast of traffic on the Richmond-San Rafael Bay Bridge.

Tamalpais.

The bill (AB 325) to allocate $700,000 to purchase additions to Tamalpais State Park was favorably reported out by the subcommittee and is likely to clear the main committee. In the Ways and Means committee, it will meet its chief hurdle, but it has an increasing number of official friends. A few days ago the State Park Commission again endorsed the bill and the Marin County Supervisors and the Planning Commission have also endorsed it. We hear that the Dept. of Beaches and Parks has

(Continued on page 2)

DID YOU FORGET?

How could you forget?

Mark your calendar - right now for May 4, for the Annual Dinner!

Cocktails
6-7
Dinner, Dancing
$5.75

When ordering your tickets, don't forget to mention if you want to be at a special-group table, ie., skiers, rock climbers, knapsackers. Now is your chance to see how your rough-and-ready sporty friends look in their best bib and tucker.

You'll be sorry, if you don't go, when you read about all the fun you missed in the next Yodeler.

DIRECTORS ELECTED

We congratulate the newly elected Directors, all of them already well-known faces at Board meetings. Three incumbents were re-elected: Ansel Adams, Elmer Aldrich and Lewis F. Clark. Newly elected were Clifford Youngquist, who has already served a term on the Board, and Edgar Wayburn, who is Conservation Committee chairman of the Club. We hear that almost 4000 votes were sent in, so perhaps the members feel it is really easier to vote for five names than fifteen.

SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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YODELER STAFF
Howard Frohlich, Editor

Cicely M. Christy
Nancy Pearson
Matilda Seliger

Production Manager . . . . . Lou Elliott
Cartoonist . . . . . Dave Meschi

NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, May 6

Volume XIX, No. 8 April 15, 1957

THIS IS A TRIBUTE

to our Barbara Tilden, to whom The Yodeler and the whole bay chapter owe so much.

Folk dancers have been helped by her past presidency of Garfield, and her editorship of their newsletter--(a stepping stone to Yodelediting?). Partygoers have enjoyed many good times, including the past two terrific Christmas parties which she planned with such imagination. The chapter management has been helped by her as an ex-committee member. Barbara, a non-skier who wanted to see the mountains in winter, initiated the snowshoeing activities which opened the winter scenes to many others.

And of course, mainly to us has been her editorship of The Yodeler--guiding all but one issue in five years. Now she's leaving us to devote full time to her new job as River-Touring chairman.

And as we inherit (at least temporarily) her scissors, pencil, and the editorial "we", we aren't at all confident about filling her shoes. We will try our best--meanwhile on behalf of The Yodeler staff and the entire chapter we wish to say:

Thank you, Barbara Tilden.

P.S. Your Aunt Barbara's corner will be a feature any time you care to send something in.

--HF

ARE YOU A GOURMET GUIDE GRABBER?

We are thinking about our Gourmet Guide, published annually with the last June issue. Informal inquiries indicate that our readers go for the guide. Its success will depend on your contributions.

We want places which will accept people in "informal" attire, with reasonable service, good food, and fair prices. If places don't completely qualify you can send them in with a memo regarding shortcomings--such as "food is so good it's worth waiting for the slow service", etc.

And, please, locate the place clearly. So many have described a cafe as "2 miles beyond town on the right, "and then fail to say which way they are going.

FLASH: SPEAKER ANNUAL DINNER will be ROSS LEFFLER, Assistant Secretary, Interior

Come to

The MOUNTAIN PLAY

"TAMALPA"

by

Dan Totheroh

MOUNTAIN THEATRE
MT. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK
MARIN COUNTY

SUNDAY · MAY 19, 1957 · 2:00 p.m.

Adults $1.25 . . . . Children 50c

Continued from page 1

recommended that even more than the $700,000 be allocated to Tamalpais State Park but until the bill is passed and the money appropriated we must continue every effort to support it. The Bay Chapter has prepared a brochure on the proposed additions which you will soon receive. Show it to your friends and follow up its request for support.

We are very sorry to hear that a Los Angeles real estate firm has taken an option on the Brazil ranch lands. Ever since we were warned by an alert Club member, last January, of their impending sale we have been trying to get action through the Park Department. These lands include the Dipsea trail, Lone Tree Spring, and the lower part of Steep Ravine, all important areas long planned for acquisition.. The Department has been promising for months to send someone down to investigate this. Now--at worst we shall lose an especially fine area with its famous trail and connection to the beach, or, at least it will cost more to buy, which means that either we or someone else will get less land for parks.

The proposed cable railway up Tamalpais calls for a line from the foot of Baltimore Canyon up to a terminal and restaurant gouged out of the side of East Peak below the lookout. The project is now at a crucial stage in its plans. Last week, at a second hearing in Larkspur where the city officials seem favorable it ran into vociferous opposition from the embattled property owners. As Yodeler goes to press a Water Company meeting in San Rafael is deciding whether to give it a permit to use water company lands. We will try to include a late flash.

Bruces Eddy Dam. Those of you who wrote to Senator Kuchel opposing this dam will already know that it passed the Senate in Omnibus Rivers and Harbors Bill but that we at least succeeded in attaching a rider that no funds be expended on it until the studies on fish and wildlife now being made in connection with the effect of the dam on salmon and elk are completed.

--CMC

ADVANCED BECOME BEGINNERS

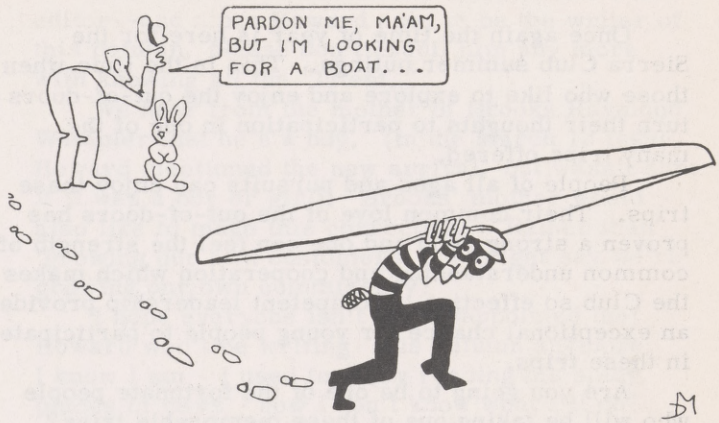
We had a delightful time on the Russian River the Sunday before last. We scheduled an advanced trip, but what with the threatening rain, the scattered arrival of the participants, and a general feeling of "first trip unreadiness," we ended up on a beginners' run from Hopland and managed to find a little sunshine along the way.

Some of us went on to a tricky rapid just above Squaw Rock and after looking it over carefully we decided just how it should be run. Any decision turned out to be entirely technical. We ended by going through in almost every conceivable way. It was the nice kind of rapid where one can easily portage back to the start and try over again. We ended the day's run with another successful go at upper Squaw Rock rapid, which went with unexpected smoothness.

The river was quite full with a fair number of snags from winter floods. There were plenty of spots for the unwary to turn over, but the only dangerous spot above the Squaw Rock area was a low bridge which was clearly visible from a good distance upstream. At this water level there was only one foot clearance between the bridge and the water. The events that followed brought out again the very real importance of obeying the leader's directions. There were a couple of beginners along with us (since we found ourselves on a milk run) who were instructed to take out at a point a couple of hundred feet above the bridge. The bow man debarked, then the stern man decided there was nothing there that he couldn't handle, and the next thing we knew his boat was headed straight into the bridge. Despite considerable assistance the paddler found himself under his capsized boat which was stuck under the low bridge. It looked easy, and was easy for anyone with a minimum of experience, but this is one of the many times when inexperienced people do not know enough to appreciate the potential danger of a situation. I hope that this particular person has learned his lesson. It is for the other dumbkopfs that I am writing.

Another good lesson that on trip is the deceiving quality of rapids that drop off sharply. In the late afternoon overcast, despite familiarity with the area, I could not spot upper Squaw Rock rapids from a couple of hundred feet (tho I could see well beyond it) until I figured out where it must be by the rocks above it on one side. The water ran smoothly over the top and did not become aerated (or white) until it had dropped from the sight of an approaching boater. Usually one can discern a differential of water level if one looks very carefully, but the problem is typical of this type of drop. The danger here is enhanced by the fact that the water is apt to become increasingly, but almost imperceptibly, rapid just above the drop, so that last minute retreat become proportionately difficult. This points up the need for heavy reliance on sound and due caution when the perceived sound cannot be fully explained.

--Elsa Bailey



WARNING TO BOATERS

Bryce Whitmore, 700 Laurel Lane, El Sobrante learned this too late, but--don't store your boat on your car. Bryce parked in front of his home one midnite with two boats on his pickup, and the next morning there was only one.

If you see a suspicious light-blue, fiberglass vagrant vehicle floating around, contact Bryce pronto.

This boat was quite unique, and very unstable, requiring experienced handling--let's all hope the new owner drowns.

ESKIMO RESCUE CLASSES

Eskimo Rescue classes will be held on Tuesdays starting May 7 for 6 weeks at Temescal Pool behind Technical High School in Oakland.

Good idea to learn paddle bracing even if you don't expect to rescue anyone-also a good chance for beginners to demonstrate swimming ability.

A REMINDER FROM THE SCHEDULE

River Touring: American River at Fair Oaks, April 27-28. Here's exciting water for moving water beginners. Easy rapids, back eddies, many good practice spots for ferrying, paddle braces and transitions through abrupt current changes. A few boats will be available for rental to the first applicants. Call Lou Elliott, the leader. Lots of camp space, so bring the family.

LYRICS FOR THE YODELER

Don't say it only in pictures when you take one of those breath-taking hiking, knapsacking or car camping trips. Yodel it from the pages of The Yodeler.

We are looking for contributions. All we ask is that you make it fascinating, legible and that you get it in on time. See Yodeler masthead for deadline.

--MS

SUMMER VACATION TRIPS

Once again the time of year is here for the Sierra Club summer outings. This is the time when those who like to explore and enjoy the out-of-doors turn their thoughts to participation in one of the many trips offered.

People of all ages and pursuits can enjoy these trips. Their common love of the out-of-doors has proven a strong bond and one can feel the strength of common understanding and cooperation which makes the Club so effective. Competent leadership provides an exceptional chance for young people to participate in these trips.

Are you going to be one of the fortunate people who will be taking one of these memorable trips? There are many from which to choose: Base camps, High Trips, Wilderness Base Camp, Knapsack Trips, River Trips, Burro trips. Just to set you off dreaming (and referring to your March issue of the Bulletin) briefly here are some of the wondrous far-off places to choose from.

Base Camps will be at beautiful Ashley Lake-Iron Mt. There'll be instruction in rock climbing snow technique, photography and even trout fishing. Wilderness Base Camp at Monarch Divide on the shores of State Lake. A scenic spot from which to explore Monarch Divide and the rugged canyons around it. Glacier Peak Base Camp. The trip this year will be a combination base camp-knapsack trip. Canada Base Camp-Selkirk Mts. This northern base camp will be located in the heart of the Selkirt Mts. in Canada. From camp there are close-up views of glaciers.

Sierra High Trips. Evolution country and Muir Pass. This traverses some of the most superb parts of the Sierras. The entrance is over Piute Pass and the exit is via Bishop Pass. Palisades and Bench Lake. A photographer's paradise, we understand, with the reflection of Arrow Peak in the lake. Glacier High Trip. This is a land of low, long fjord-like lakes. Teton High Trip circles Grand Teton. The Teton Range is magnificent with its glacier-carved canyons and spectacular views. Whichever high trip you choose it will be a delightful vacation. You will travel for a day through lovely Alpine meadows carpeted with wild flowers; stop for a trailside siesta by a tumbling stream, or fish in a stream.

River Trips. in Dinosaur National Monument on the Yampa and Green Rivers. This is the second year for this type trip. People just glowed and spilled over with enthusiasm about vacations spent on these trips. The scenery is as breathtaking as the rapids!

Knapsack Trips. Eight knapsack trips are planned for this summer. Knapsackers who wish to learn how to plan and lead outings of their own, can join one of the ten man group-planned trips. Those who have only a short vacation can join an eight day trip; the luckier ones can join the two-week trips. Each trip will provide a rich experience in wilderness enjoyment.

(Cont'd next column)

PLANT EXPERIENCES AND OTHER THINGS

The world is so full of a number of things . . . . . It has been for Dr. Harold Bryant, former Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park. He will show colored slides of previously undiscovered plants and animals found in the Grand Canyon along with telling of visits of foreign royalty there, rescues of fliers, etc.

All of this will be at the Willard School (not Whittier) on Wednesday, April 24 at the East Bay Dinner. Willard School is at Ward and Telegraph, Berkeley. Those coming from San Francisco take the "F" train as usual, but get off at Ward and Shattuck and walk three long blocks north to Telegraph. The cafeteria is in the annex behind the main building. Dinner is at 6:00, the program will follow. Phone Betty Franklin at OLympic 5-5113 by Monday, April 22.

Coming Event: Hobby Show on May 8. Wanted: Collections, Photographs, crafts, or whatever your hobby. All are welcome. Please phone Mr. Owen Pearce soon at CLifford 4-2470, if interested, for more information.

--Elaine Carl

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday, May 12, 1957, 3:00 p.m.
Brazilian Room, Tilden Regional Park

Speaker: Dr. Cadet H. Hand
Assistant Professor of Zoology,
University of California

Speaker: ANIMALS OF CALIFORNIA SEA SHORE

Dr. Hand will tell of the Worms, Snails, Star Fish, Burrowing Clams, Sea Anemone and the many other organisms of the sea shore, with the story of what they are doing and why.

Illustrated with colored slides. These meetings are open to the public and free of charge. Come and enjoy an afternoon in the Park with your family and friends.

- -

Continued from column 1

Burro Trips. This type of travel offers a splendid education in the art of camping and packing in the High Sierras. These trips are cooperative with everyone sharing in the packing, cooking and travel on the trail.

Study the details of these outings in the March Bulletin and send in your reservation for at least one, then you can dream until the happy day arrives.

Dorothy Otto, Member
Sierra Club Outings,
Committee

SKI TOURING: LASSEN PEAK, April 6-7

"Descent from the top of Lassen is down a marvelous steep bowl."

Under the relaxed but competent leadership of Earl Oliver and Bob Frenkel, a party composed of Sylvia and Dick Waters, Jim Dowd, Howard Frohlich and Fred Sandrock departed from the Sulphur Works Winter Sports Area (elev.6700') to the snow survey shelter east of the lake. The day became overcast and windy, but the climb was pleasant.

At 5:30 p.m., Earl and Bob decided on a spur-of-the-moment side expedition to the summit of Ski Heil Peak. It was now freezing cold (19°) and the wind had become a gale. Earl and Bob made it--three "Ski Heils!" fellows.

Sunday, with the sky clear and a high wind blowing, the group spent about three hours ascending Lassen Peak (elev. 10,453'). Just as the summit was reached the wind ceased and the crater was a quiet, slightly steaming winter wonderland of rime-covered rocks. About 1 1/2 hours was spent enjoying lunch, traversing the crater, and taking in the view which included Mt. Shasta, Manzanita and Reflection Lakes, Cinder Cone, Lake Almanor and the Coast Range.

The run back down to Lake Helen in the timber-free steep bowl was, of course, the high point of the tour. The weather and snow conditions were excellent. Picking up the packs near the lake, the party headed back in the direction of the Sulphur Works at which point Bob, Earl and Howard decided to climb Diamond Peak. The rest of the group skied happily into the ski area where the Rangers' welcome back included a ride on the Park's new Platter pull lift, some 1200' long with a rise of 450'. Just as the top of the lift was reached, three skiers streaked down Diamond Peak to the amazement of the onlookers, including the lift operator. It's not often that one sees Telemark turns, even from a distance.

Our ski touring group wishes to express appreciation and thanks to Edward D. Freeland, Superintendent, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and the Park Rangers for the use of the shelter at Lake Helen, the overall encouragement, and the friendly invitation to return for more extensive ski tours in the future.

--Fred Sandrock

* *

Cover Photo: Hunt Webber (stern) and Bill Bewley (bow), newcomers to the RTS skirting a souse hole on Merced River.

Masthead: Scene on recent intermediate trip on the Merced. Bryce Whitmore empties his boat, Elsa Bailey readjusts her spray apron while Bob Elliott and Don Golden watch the process. Bill Bewley and Hunt Webber enjoy the trip in Bob Hawley's double. Conni Freydig looks over Bryce Whitmore's glass boat for possible nicks and scratches.

MOUNTAIN-EARS HEAR

The latest news is that the Yodeler has a new editor--and since Howard used to be the writer of this column, please don't credit him any more with knowing all the "latest."

We hear from the mother of Brooks Raymond Wampler that he's a boy. (In the March 18 issue, Howard mentioned the new arrival, but wasn't sure if it was a boy or girl). Brooks' mother would also like to make this correction: "Rather than 'growing our own customers' one might say we're growing our own commissary!"

I hope everyone isn't too disappointed that Howard won't be writing this column anymore; I know I am - I used to enjoy reading his spicy pieces of news - now I don't know what I'll do!

(Please think of me during the next three weeks--and if you pick anything up - send it in. I don't want you to get the impression that I don't know anything, but if you did, well . . . . . .)

--NP

EMERALD BAY

The Sierra Club is sending a release to all out-of door and civic-minded organizations on the subject of the low level bridge across Emerald Bay. We summarize it here and will have much more to say about the whole subject in future Yodelers.

Everyone knows that a determined attempt is being made to build a bridge across the mouth of Emerald Bay, the excuse being that it will be easier to keep the road open in winter. The effect will be to destroy two State Park Campgrounds and scar miles of scenic shoreline as well as abandon the well-known view of the bay from the present high level road.

The Highway Department is studying the high level route to see if it can be widened, protected and kept open all winter. They will not complete the study until summer. They should be allowed to finish it properly before a decision is made. The proponents of the low level road argue it is needed for the 1960 Olympics, but the fact is that no road, new or old, can possibly be completed by then. We shall not even have a four-lane Highway 40 by then, and it would be tragic to make plans in haste only to regret them at leisure when careful study and planning can give us an all year highway and save the scenery as well.

The Club asks that all groups and citizens who care about this lovely gem of our non-wilderness Sierra write, asking for completion of the studies now being made on this road - before definite plans are laid. Address your letters to Frank Durkee, Chairman of the State Highway Commission, Sacramento.

--CMC

FOR SALE

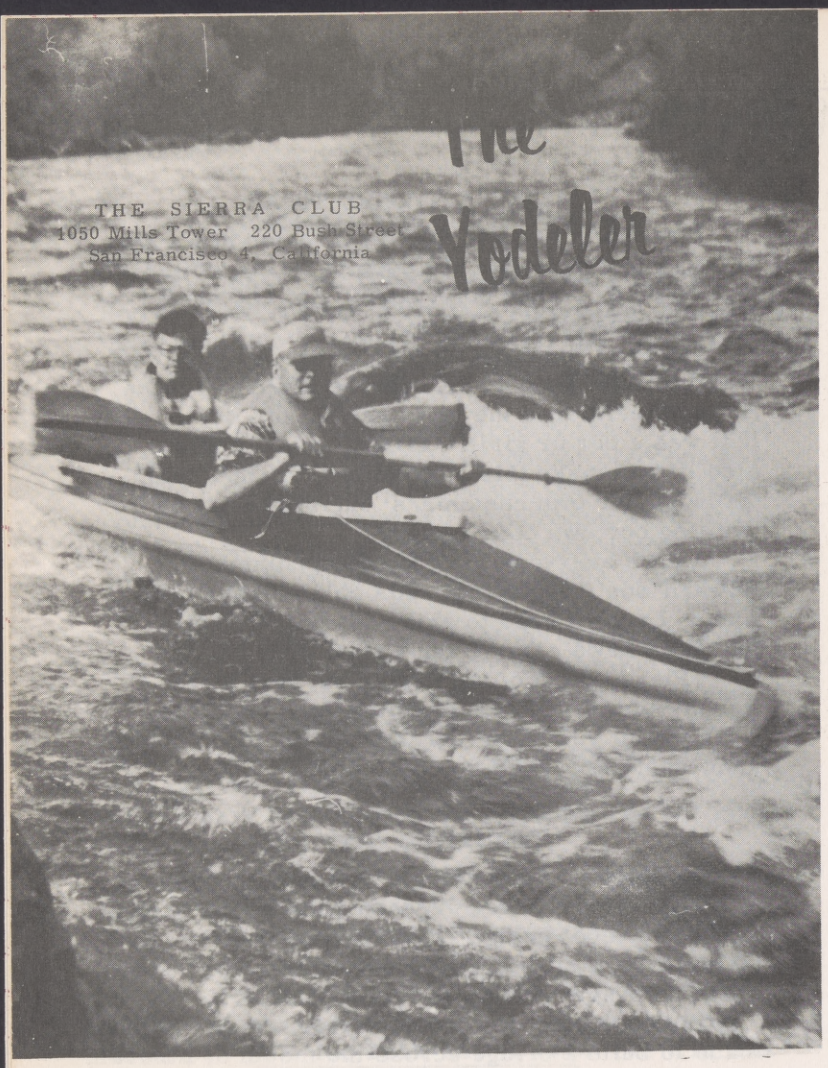
Used Argus C-3 35 mm camera, probably needs some work. $20

Howard Frohlich, UNderhill 1-7510

WANTED TO RENT

Wanted to rent, by responsible party: one rubber boat (approx. 10 ft.) or two smaller ones for two weeks in June. Call THornwall 5-4184.

G.H. Reedy



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Phone or write: Mrs. Annemarie Fahrenbach
463 Hanover Avenue
Oakland 6, California
GLencourt 2-1381

SCHEDULE CORRECTION

Beginners' hike to Muir Beach, April 27 will start at Pan Toll instead of Alpine Club. Phone Anna Rind or Mary Margaret Jones about rides needed or offered.

PICTURES WANTED

Do you have some good black and white pictures you'd like everyone to see? This applies to trip leaders particularly, but everyone is welcome. Your masterpiece may make The Yodeler, and perhaps, even the cover.

Don't send any irreplaceable material--we can't guarantee not to lose it. If you want it back, be sure to say so clearly.

We will pay for all pictures published at our standard rates, which is a "Thank you in advance" herewith given.

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